



**Minutes of 20th Group Meeting held at 1st Forest Hill Scout Hall,
St Germans Road, SE23 on 29th June 2006, 7.30pm**

Present BHFUG members:

Marcel Jenkins - Chair (MJ)	Kylie Barnes – Secretary (KB)	Gavin Bolam (GB)
Elizabeth Downie – Vice Chair (ED)		Mark Wellband
Anne Scott	Harriet Jenkins	Ray & Cathy Ashley
Jon Lissimore	Albert Blackmore	Sydney & Maureen Couldridge
Nicholas Taylor	Caroline Sefton (CS)	Ian MacKay
Marcella Bracken	Matt King	Malcolm Trott
Nick Marks	B. Gibbs	

Other Attendees: Sgt. Warren Gregory, Annette Stevens, Peter Hing – Crofton Park Safer Neighbourhood Team – Brockley Park Police Station

Apologies:

Frances O'Connor	Josh Smaller
Barbara Dryhurst	Mark Spalding
Councillor Sylvia Scott	

1. MJ opened the meeting with welcome and apologies.

2. Matters Arising from the last meeting

Sydney Couldridge (SC) wanted clarification on who wrote the Group meeting minutes. MJ replied that after the Secretary had typed them, the Committee edited them before sending out to the membership.

3. Committee Report / 15th July Event

MJ reported that the Committee had met twice since the last meeting to discuss the 15th July event and to finalise the Questionnaire. Lewisham Council had agreed to pay for photocopying 1200 questionnaires. Sgt Warren Gregory or one of his colleagues will be able to attend on the day.

4. Committee Membership Nominations

MJ reported that since the last meeting both Caroline Sefton and Elizabeth Downie (Vice Chair) had stepped down from the Committee. Nominations were invited from the Group and both Sydney Couldridge and Ray Ashley were nominated and elected as new Committee members.

5. BHFUG Web Site – www.blythehillfields.org.uk

MJ reported that the server had gone down and the site had been unavailable for a week or two but it was now up and running and members were encouraged to view the site. There was also an interactive message board as part of the site which members were encouraged to use. To use the board members were required to create a log-in and password.

6. Fundraising Update

ED mentioned that there was another Big Lottery Fund application coming up but that the deadline was in a month's time and therefore too soon to be useful. Also, Gavin Bolam reported that he had managed to secure funding from Lewisham / Glendale to enable the Group to have a bulb planting day in October. A weekend date needed to be set up and it was hoped that children from Stillness School and St. William of York could take part in this event.

UPDATE: The date for the bulb planting day has been set as SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER.

7. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Sgt Warren Gregory, Annette and Peter from the Safer Neighbourhood Team attended the meeting to explain the Safer Neighbourhood programme. The dedicated local team will be working with the community, including local Street Leaders and the Council to identify and tackle local problems such as anti-social behaviour (like mini motorbikes, graffiti etc,) and other crime.

A number of members highlighted some of the problems in the area. Sgt Gregory had fridge magnets and other information available to members. There was the possibility of the SNT applying for money to provide activities for youth to divert them away from crime. The telephone number for Sgt Gregory's team was 020 8721 2485 or email croftonpark.snt@met.police.uk. For emergencies, however, always use 999.

8. Members Issues

Members were invited to raise individual issues concerning them. MJ raised the continuing problem of dog mess in the fields. Many visitors still visit the park to walk their dogs but do not use the dog mess bins provided. This issue needs a way to be sorted out – possibly by prosecuting dog owners.

SC raised the issue of the notice boards and BHFUG posters being removed. KB had contacted Lewisham Council to see if they had been removing them and it is thought that Glendale possibly took them down in the belief it was fly-posting. KB asked that future posters be left up in and around the fields to advertise that the User Group exists.

Balloon Race – as yet the Group had not had a response from Glendale as to how many balloons they were willing to donate for the day. CS clarified that the balloons were biodegradable.

Scooters/Mini motorbikes – Sgt Gregory confirmed it was illegal to drive these vehicles in the park and that the police ultimately had the power to seize the mopeds.

Since the last Group meeting, MJ had drafted a new section to the BHFUG Constitution concerning conduct at Group meetings. The section was read out and members were asked if they were happy to include it. The group unanimously supported its inclusion. The full Constitution would shortly be available on the website.

9. Treasurers Report

KB reported on behalf of the Treasurer that there was currently £19.34 in the kitty. The Treasurer was to open a bank account to enable the User Group to place funds.

10. Any other Business

ED had drafted an information sheet on the Group that could be handed out to all new members to explain what the Group was about. These were handed out to new members.

11. Dates of the Future Meetings

7th September 2006 at 7.30pm, 1st Forest Hill Scout Group Hall, St Germans Road

26th October 2006 – the first AGM

MISSION STATEMENT

Blythe Hill Fields User Group (BHFUG) exists to represent everyone living around or using Blythe Hill Fields. Our purpose is to achieve sustainable improvements and facilities in this vital resource for the benefit of the whole community. We aim to promote the increased use and enjoyment of this essential open space.